

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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TAGS: EGEN, OECD

SUBJ: ISSUES INVOLVED IN COMING OECD COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

1. SUMMARY. SEC GEN AND OTHERS POSED QUESTIONS ABOUT OBJECTIVES AND POSSIBLE COMMUNIQUE OF OECD MINISTERIAL COUNCIL, AND ABOUT IMPLICATIONS OF KISSINGER PROPOSAL. END SUMMARY

2. WORKING LUNCHEON HOSTED BY SEC GEN VAN LENNEP YESTERDAY DEALT LARGELY WITH VARIOUS ISSUES AND OBJECTIVES OF JUNE 6-8 MEETING OF COUNCIL AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL. OWING TO IMPORTANCE WHICH OTHER MEMBERS ACCORD TO US AS LEADER (OR VILLAIN), THIS DEVOLVED PRIMARILY INTO SEARCHING QUESTIONS FIRE AT US. MAIN TOPICS TOUCHED AS FOLLOWS:

A) COMMUNIQUE. SEC GEN AND OTHERS STATED THAT AREA COVERED BY AGENDA ITEM 1- B, TRADE- MONETARY- INVESTMENT ISSUES, MOST DIFFICULT TO ANTICIPATE BY ADVANCE DRAFT. ASKED ABOUT US WISHES, I REPLIED THAT WASHINGTON PREPARATIONS
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PROGRESSING. POSITIONS WHICH US AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS COULD TAKE DEPENDED NOT ONLY ON OWN PREOCCUPATIONS AND THEIR LATER NEGOTIATING OBJECTIVES, BUT ON SERIES OF SUMMIT MEETINGS CURRENTLY IN PROGRESS. NOT ABLE AT THIS TIME TO SKETCH US DESIRES THESE POINTS FOR COMMUNIQUE BEYOND WHAT WE HAD PREVIOUSLY INDICATED DRAWING ON STATE 72126.

B) NATIONAL OBJECTIES. THEY RAISED GENERAL QUESTION WHETHER ANY COUNTRY SEEKING TO ADVANCE SOME NATIONAL OBJECTIVE. I MENTIONED THAT MINISTERIAL MEETING WOULD TAKE PLACE AT SIGNIFICANT MOMENT OF CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION OF BILL ON TRADE NEGOTIATIONS AND AUTHORITY. USG WOULD BE LOOKING TO USE MINISTERIAL DISCUSSIONS AS MEANS FOR ASSURING PUBLIC AND LEGISLATORS THAT US ENGAGED IN RIGHT KIND OF CONSULTATIONS WITH MAJOR ECONOMIC POWERS.

C) KISSINGER PROPOSAL. INEVITABLY, REPEATED REFERENCES WERE MADE TO APRIL 23 SPEECH CALLING FOR NEW ATLANTIC RELATIONSHIP. I WAS QUERIED WHETHER US SPOKESMAN WOULD VOLUNTEER ELABORATION OF KISSINGER IDEAS OR WHETHER CHAIRMAN SHOULD CALL ON HIM TO DO SO. I REPLIED THAT KISSINGER HAD OUTLINED GENERAL OBJECTIVES IN BROAD TERMS; THAT WE DID NOT WISH TO RUSH INTO ORGANIZATIONAL OR INSTITUTIONAL DECISIONS; THAT US WELCOMES RESPONSES AND IDEAS BY OTHER GOVERNMENTS FROM THEIR CAPITALS OR IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS BEFORE FURTHER MOVES DECIDED UPON.

D) IS DELAY DESIRABLE? ONE AMBASSADOR INQUIRED WHETHER, UNTIL COUNTRIES DECIDE WHETHER AND HOW THEY CAN DEAL WITH ENTIRE RANGE OF MILITARY- POLITICAL- ECONOMIC ISSUES, ACTION SHOULD BE DELAYED IN THESE INDIVIDUAL FIELDS; E. G., SHOULD GATT OR OECD WORK BE DELAYED? GENERAL CONSENSUS THOSE PRESENT, INCLUDING MYSELF, WAS THAT SUCH INTERRUPTIONS NEITHER DESIRABLE NOR FEASIBLE AT THIS TIME.

E) DELAY TRADE NEGOTIATIONS? IN RELATION PREVIOUS QUESTION, SWISS AMBASSADOR SAID SOME EUROPEANS NOW HESITATE TO PROCEED WITH TRADE NEGOTIATIONS FOR REASON THAT ANY RESULTING AGREEMENTS COULD BE NULLIFIED SUDDENLY BY NEW PARITY CHANGES OR MOVES IN FLOATING RATES. I REBUTTED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT BY SAYING THAT THIS NEW ARGUMENT IS USUALLY ADVANCED BY SAME PERSONS WHO MAKE PARTICULAR POINT OF INSISTING THAT TRADE RESULTS BE COMPLETELY RECIPROCAL. TO EXTENT THAT GENERAL RECIPROCITY ACHIEVED, RESULTS WOULD BY DEFINITION NOT ALTER BALANCE OF PAYMENTS. HENCE, NOT VALID TO PROPOSE POSTPONEMENT OF TRADE NEGOTIATIONS ON MONETARY GROUNDS, WHATEVER OTHER CONSIDERATIONS THERE MAY BE.

F) ANY US SURPRISES? IN ANSWER TO DIRECT QUERY
FROM UK AMBASSADOR, I ANSWERED THAT I KNEW OF NO
NEW SURPRISE INITIATIVES WHICH USG MIGHT LAUNCH AT
MINISTERIAL MEETING. SAID THAT THERE ARE NO MARKED SIGNS
OF ECONOMIC PREGNANCY BUT RECOGNIZED THAT GESTATION PERIOD
CAN SOMETIMES BE VERY SHORT IN WASHINGTON.

3. COMMENT. DESPITE ONE- SIDED AND PRESSING NATURE OF
QUESTIONING, MEETING GAVE FURTHER OPPORTUNITY TO REGISTER
US VIEWPOINT ON PROSPECTS FOR MEETING AND HOPEFULLY TO
AVOID EITHER EXAGGERATING OR MINIMIZING OUR INTENTIONS.
THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT ANY ADVANCE INDICATIONS WE CAN
RECEIVE ABOUT US POLICY POSITIONS (PRINCIPALLY ON ENERGY
QESTION AND AGENDA ITEM 1-5) COULD BE USED TO INFLUENCE
POSITION OF OTHERS AND COMMUNIQUE TEXT, BUT I HAVE MADE
NO PROMISES IN THIS REGARD.
BROWN

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